

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SY-05 CPR-01 INR-07 INRE-00

SSO-00 /063 W

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O 231243Z JAN 76 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4359

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0518

BRUSSELS FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US SP OVIP (OSORIO, ALFONSO)

REF: DURKEE/LEE TELECON

1. THE MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY, ALFONSO OSORIO GARCIA, INFORMED EMBASSY JAN 22 THAT HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON JAN 27-30 TO ATTEND THE TRADITIONAL PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST SCHEDULED JAN 29. OSORIO TOLD EMBOFF THAT WHEN HE TOLD PRIME MINISTER ARIAS OF THE INVITATION, ARIAS URGED HIM TO GO FOR THE BROADER PURPOSE OF INFORMING AMERICANS, PARTICULARLY OFFICIAL WASHINGTON, OF GOVT PLANS TO REFORM THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND TO URGE AS MUCH U.S. MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT GOVT IN ITS EFFORTS TO DEMOCRATIZE SPAIN. OSORIO SAID THAT HE MET JAN 21 WITH THE KING, WHO EMPHASIZED THE BASIC STRATEGY OF GETTING BROAD U.S. BACKING FIRST, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A NEW ARRANGEMENT WITH THE VATICAN (WHICH SUPPORTS DEMOCRATIZATION) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TWO VISIBLE PILLARS OF SUPPORT FOR REFORMS HELPING IMMEASURABLY TO FURTHER THE NEW GOVT'S EFFORTS TO LIBERALIZE THE POLITICAL SYSTEM.

2. OSORIO'S PLANS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT THROUGH THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE WILL STAY DURING HIS VISIT,  
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AND MFA DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS LUIS CUERVO WILL

REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANY HIM. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE ONLY OTHER MAJOR EVENT ON HIS SCHEDULE IS A LUNCHEON TO BE HOSTED BY SENATOR MARK HATFIELD JAN 28. OSORIO HAS BEEN CLOSE TO HATFIELD FOR SEVERAL YEARS; HIS SON SPENT THE SUMMER WITH THE HATFIELD FAMILY IN 1975. OSORIO SAID THAT HE ALSO HAD SOME CONTACTS WITH SENATOR MANSFIELD.

3. THOUGH NOT AN INTIMATE OF ARIAS, OSORIO OCCUPIES A KEY POSITION IN THE CABINET. HIS MINISTRY IS EQUIVALENT TO A SECRETARIAT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, CONTROLLING INTRAMINISTERIAL COORDINATION AND LIKE MATTERS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE IS ONE OF THE TWO CABINET MEMBERS FROM THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND HAS A POLITICAL BASE. (DETAILED BIO MATERIAL ABOUT OSORIO IS CONTAINED IN MADRID 8721, DEC 1975.)

4. WE URGE THAT HE BE GIVEN HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION AS THE FIRST SPANISH CABINET MINISTER TO VISIT WASHINGTON, AND HOPE THAT HE COULD BE GIVEN WIDE EXPOSURE IN THE CONGRESS AND, IF POSSIBLE, THE MEDIA. AMONG OTHERS, HE SHOULD CERTAINLY SEE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY L. BRUCE LAINGEN, WHO MET WITH HOM ON HIS VISIT TO SPAIN WHEN OSORIO WAS OUTSIDE THE GOVT AS A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER. HIS CREDENTIALS AS AN APERTURISTA ARE SECURE, AND HE COULD HELP CREATE A FAVORABLE CLIMATE BEHIND THE NEW GOVT'S EFFORTS TO LIBERALIZE.

5. OSORIO DEPARTS JAN 27 VIA IBERIA 951 AT 1255 LOCAL FROM MADRID, ARRIVING IN NEW YORK AT 1440 LOCAL. HE LEAVES NEW YORK VIA EASTERN AIRLINES 555 AT 1630 LOCAL, ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON AT 1730 THE SAME DAY. HE IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO LEAVE WASHINGTON VIA TWA 900 DEPARTING AT 1635 ON JAN 30, CONNECTING WITH IBERIA 952 DEPARTING NEW YORK AT 1930 THE SAME DAY FOR MADRID.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, US, SP, (OSORIO GARCIA, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006